As events transpire, the Telegraph declines to publish the dialogue on the grounds that it is so much longer than Dr. Workman's original offending letter. Dr. Campbell defends its length on the grounds that "it was a refutation of serious charges, which could not be done in the same number of words as sufficed for the accusation" (12).

In a very stagy, heavy-handed dialogue between himself and a straw man, "Lawyer Blank," Dr. Campbell indicates that before talking to "Lawyer Blank" he had talked to another lawyer who had advised him against legal action. While Dr. Campbell would probably win the verdict in court, this would be a pointless victory; his main concern was for his public reputation. Moreover, the latter would probably be hurt, by an argument necessarily based on medical technicalities which the public would not be able to understand, and whose potential for sensationalization was obvious:

> the general public would never get a clear idea of the matter, and might, perhaps, after a verdict in my favor, say, "O yes! we remember; Dr. Campbell got involved in a lawsuit about some unpleasant case in the Asylum; there were many curious points set up, and the doctors involved the whole in so much mystery with their long words that we really cannot tell exactly how it ended." (13)

The public being Dr. Campbell's principal addressee anyway, instead of addressing them indirectly in a manner bound to fail, the first lawyer suggests that he "write a letter in as plain language as possible, meeting all the charges, or rather insinuations ... and get it published before the subject grows cold" (13). This lawyer notes in passing the significant detail that Dr. Campbell has not been directly charged with anything.

Now "Lawyer Blank" thinks Dr. Campbell might send his letter to the editor of the Telegraph, since "he will readily enough put in anything sensational, as your letter on such a subject is likely to be" (14). "Lawyer Blank" speculates that the real enemy is not the editor of the Telegraph, but Dr. Workman. The same "straw man" is used to explain that the latter is "[a]n old newspaper man, he delights in strife and party warfare" (14). "Lawyer Blank" adds some other interesting details: